OFFICE OF ANIMAL CARE AND USE (OACU)
INFORMATIONAL MEMO
July 2013

In order to provide better service to our Principal Investigators (PI), research staff, and administrative managers, the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) has compiled this informational memo. Please feel free to call the OACU staff if you have any questions about any items in this memo.

New and Updated Institutional Animal Care and Use (IACUC) Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures

All policies and Guidelines described below can be accessed through the IACUC website at http://research.unc.edu/offices/iacuc/.

Policies:

Updated* Rat and Mouse Euthanasia Policy: This policy was revised in response to the release of the 2013 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. The new policy now requires personnel to place animals into the euthanasia chamber, then set a flow meter (rather than a regulator) and begin gradual CO2 displacement into the chamber, followed by a physical method.

Implementation of the new CO2 flow meters: All researchers must be retrained in the new method for CO2 and certified in the new technique in ACAP (‘CO2 Flow Meter with Physical method’) within the period of time described below:

DLAM Facility Managers will hold training sessions within their facilities for a period of two weeks July 29, 2013- Aug 9, 2013. A separate email from DLAM will be sent to all Principal Investigators later this week detailing the specific training dates for each building. All Laboratory Animal Coordinators (LACs) are required to attend a training session in the facility where their animals are housed. (LACs should contact OACU at 919-966-5569 if they are unable to receive training during this two-week period of time.)

Following the mandatory training, LACs will then have one week to train all lab members who will utilize CO2 on campus. All personnel must be retrained by August 9, 2013, when the ‘old’ CO2 regulators will be removed from DLAM facilities and only the ‘new’ flow meter set ups will be available for use. If lab members are unable to get training in this period of time, they should be trained by their LAC as soon as they return and before performing any CO2 euthanasia.

ACAP will automatically reflect the new “CO2 flow meter with physical euthanasia” technique for all individuals who currently have the old technique listed in their personnel profiles. Once the LAC has
trained lab personnel in the new CO2 method, the LAC is responsible for entering the certification information into the registration system. Please do this as quickly as possible so that ACAP reflects the correct training status.

The revised CO2 euthanasia policy will be in effect as soon as the 3 week training period has ended. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), NIH's regulatory branch, expects all NIH-funded institutions to implement the current AVMA CO2 euthanasia recommendations by September 1, 2013. More details regarding the change can be found in the July 2013 DLAM Vivarium Vitals Newsletter.

Investigators who wish to perform CO2 euthanasia outside of DLAM facilities must adhere to all principles in the revised policy and must purchase the same equipment utilized by DLAM. Appropriate flow meters must be purchased from VWR and can be found through the UNC purchasing system, E-Pro, or at the following website: https://us.vwr.com (part number: 89012-426).

**New* Environmental Enrichment Policy:** This policy was revised in response to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition requirements that institutions create and review an enrichment program for all its animals. Enrichment in animal housing at UNC-CH is the default unless otherwise justified in an application Exception or for veterinary reasons.

**New* Social Housing Policy, revised version (June):** This policy was created in response to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition statement that social interactions among members of the same species are essential for normal development and that “Single housing of social species should be the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being.”

**Implementation:** All PIs completing new and continuing protocols will be prompted to complete section 6.0.5b in ACAP to describe the possibility for single housing of animals in their studies. Several choices are available for selection and DLAM veterinary staff will also have the ability to indicate when an animal must be separated due to medical issues. Implementation of the policy will begin in July 2013 and be gradually phased in.

**Updated* Animal Transport and Biosecurity Policy:** A statement has been added regarding transport of animals through public areas, using disposable containers as applicable, and using service elevators instead of public elevators whenever possible.

**Updated* Rat Cage Density Policy:** This policy was revised to resemble the current Mouse Cage Density policy and to more clearly define acceptable breeding schemes and weaning information.

**Updated* Mouse Cage Density Policy:** This policy was updated to allow for more pups to remain in a cage and clarified other points regarding weaning and cage density.

**Updated* Policy on Footpad Injections in Mice and Rats:** This document was revised with the help of DLAM veterinarians to include a more thorough statement regarding frequency of injection (see item #4 in the policy). The updated version is now a policy rather than a guideline so compliance is mandatory unless an Investigator has an approved Exception.
Guidelines:

**New* Guidelines for Aseptic Technique in USDA Covered Species:** This is a new Guideline designed to aid researchers and veterinary staff utilizing USDA covered species in survival procedures (Dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, ferrets, etc.)

**Updated* Guideline for Aseptic Technique for Rodents:** This document has been updated with appropriate sterilant exposure times.

**Updated* Guidelines for Rodent Blood Withdrawal:** The OACU combined techniques for tail clip for blood withdrawal and tail clip for genotyping. These two techniques will be listed as one technique in ACAP: Tail Clip bleed/genotyping. Due to the similarity of the two techniques, anyone previously trained in either tail clip technique will now be certified for the new technique to avoid additional training requirements.

Standard Operating Procedures:

**Updated* Duties Performed by Investigator Check sheet (AKA PI Check Sheet):** This form now stipulates that feed/water duties must be performed with a maximum of 2 consecutive days between observations rather than every other day, except weekends, as described in the previous version. If your laboratory wishes to provide any of the before mentioned husbandry duties for your research animals, please discuss this with the DLAM Facility Manager.